

Dear Chairman Powell and Commissioners,
As the elections approach, a well-functioning democracy demands that citizens have access to a diversity of opinions and voices on the choices confronting us.

We are not getting it. Our democracy is at risk when many Americans don't know basic facts about the candidates or the issues. We can not depend on the candidates to more than attack each other.

More than half of news broadcasts prior to the 2002 elections did not include a single campaign story.

Since broadcasters have clearly failed in their obligation to serve the public interest and are more interested in the bottom line, the FCC should define meaningful public interest requirements.

Include local civic and electoral affairs programming. At a minimum, broadcasters should air three hours per week of local civic and electoral affairs programming, with at least two hours devoted to substantive election coverage in the final weeks prior to Election Day.

Sincerely,

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